

CORRECTIONS AND CRITICISMS TO THE ARTICLE ON THE  
AVIFAUNA OF YUNNAN, pp. 189-343

BY LORD ROTHSCHILD

I SENT a separate copy of this article to Dr. Erwin Stresemann, who communicated to me a number of notes, which I embody below.

Nos. 24-26: Dr. Stresemann points out that the specific name *javanica* Rafinesque is older than *pugnax* Temm, therefore these three forms must stand as follows: 24. *Turnix javanica rostrata* Swinh.; 25. *Turnix javanica taioor* (Sykes); 26. *Turnix javanica plumbipes* (Hodgs.). As I had not got Rafinesque's work in which *javanica* is described, I may be excused for missing this name.

No. 113: Dr. Stresemann says he is convinced that *Accipiter affinis* Gurney and *A. virgatus* belong to the same "Formenkreis." I do not unite them, as I am not yet sure that this view is correct.

No. 147: Dr. Stresemann asks, "How does *Eudynamis scolopaceus enigmaticus* differ from *E. s. chinensis* Cab. & Heine?" I at once admit that I overlooked the footnote (p. 52, *Museum Heineanum*, vol. iv) in which Messrs. Cabanis & Heine describe their *E. chinensis*; therefore my name of *scolopaceus enigmaticus* sinks as a synonym of *scolopaceus chinensis* Cab. & Heine.

No. 154: Dr. Stresemann draws my attention to the fact that since publication of Dr. Hartert's vol. ii of *Palaeartic Birds* it has been ascertained the name of *intermedius* Vahl was not published till 1797, so that Latham's name of *poliocephalus* (1790) must be used. No. 154 therefore must stand as *Cuculus poliocephalus poliocephalus* Lath.

No. 205: I cannot agree with Dr. Stresemann, from my present knowledge, that *Caprimulgus monticola* is a subspecies of *C. affinis*.

No. 207: Dr. Stresemann points out that the Swiftlet *brevirostris* McClell. does not belong to the "Formenkreis" of *fucifaga*, but to that of *vestita*; therefore No. 207 must stand as *Collocalia vestita brevirostris* (McClell.).

No. 229: Dr. Stresemann expresses the opinion that *sinensis* is a subspecies of *leschenaulti*. It is, however, rather remarkable that whereas in the three races hitherto placed under *leschenaulti* the outer pair of rectrices are practically of the same length as the next outermost pair, in *sinensis* the outermost pair are very much shorter than the next outermost pair of rectrices. In coloration and pattern *sinensis* and *leschenaulti* show practically no differences.

Nos. 293-315: In vol. i, p. 624, of *Vög. paläarkt. Faun.* Dr. Hartert has united under the generic name *Ianthocincla* Gould the genera *Trochalopteron*, *Babax*, *Kaznakovia*, *Ianthocincla*, and *Pterorhinus*, but although hinting at the generic identity of *Garrulax*, he still retained this as a genus for the large-crested forms temporarily. In my five articles on the Avifauna of Yunnan, however, I have gone the "whole hog" and lumped all these birds under the one genus *Ianthocincla*, and I think rightly. Some ornithologists will, no doubt, accuse me in this of inconsistency, as I have kept the Scimitar-babblers of the

genera *Pomatorhinus* and *Xiphirhynchus* separate, but the very exaggerated bill of the latter points to totally different habits. Now Dr. Stresemann points out that *Garrulax* Less. (1831) is older than *Ianthocinclia* Gould (1837), so *Ianthocinclia* in Nos. 293-315 must sink and be replaced by *Garrulax*.

No. 400: Messrs. Mathews and Iredale were the authors responsible for refusing to admit the name *inornatus* for this bird and rechristening it *humei praeemium*; Dr. Stresemann disagrees with their view and calls it *inornatus inornatus*. I, however, consider the matter is still so doubtful that for the present I prefer to use the name of *humei praeemium*.

Nos. 405-408: Dr. Stresemann (*Orn. Monatsb.* 1924, pp. 8-10) sets out that the birds hitherto placed in the single "Formenkreis" *trochiloides* must now be divided into two, viz. *trochiloides* and *davisoni*. I believe Mr. Kinnear arrived independently at the same conclusion. I am not personally sufficiently *au fait* with the genus *Phylloscopus* (sensu extensiore) to venture to dogmatise on this question, but in view of the almost similar status in the white eyes *Zosterops* of the "Formenkreise" *simplex* and *palpebrosa*, I think Dr. Stresemann is correct in his conclusions, and therefore I consider Nos. 405 and 408 must stand as *Phylloscopus trochiloides trochiloides* (Sund.) and *Phylloscopus trochiloides claudiae* respectively, while Nos. 406 and 407 must be called *Phylloscopus davisoni davisoni* (Oates) and *Phylloscopus davisoni disturbans* (La Touche).

Nos. 442-444: Dr. Stresemann in drawing attention to these birds suggests that Nos. 442 and 444 of my list are the same. In his paper on "*Cyornis*" (*Orn. Monatsb.* 1925, pp. 45-53) he unites *glaucomans* Thay. & Bangs and *dialilaema* Salvad. with *rubeculoides* as subspecies of *rubeculoides*; I unfortunately have put down *glaucomans* as a subspecies of *tickellii*, whereas I placed *dialilaema* as a race of *rubeculoides*; but I maintain that whether you consider the forms with narrow central throat-bands of orange buff and those with the whole throat more or less orange buff are the same or different, the fact remains that the West Yunnan birds are smaller and the Eastern and Central Yunnan are larger; therefore they are not the same, and No. 442 must be called *Muscicapa rubeculoides glaucomans* and the West Yunnan portion of those under No. 444 *Muscicapa rubeculoides dialilaema* (Salvad.).

Nos. 514 and 518-522: Dr. Stresemann writes to me that: (1) In the Stötzner collections the series from Kwan-t sien contains all intergradations between *Paradoxornis alphonsiana* and *P. webbiana suffusa*; and (2) that although he did not possess examples of *Paradoxornis brunnea* he was convinced that it also belonged to the "Formenkreis" of *webbiana*. As regards (1), *alphonsiana* has only been recorded from East and Central Yunnan, not from West Yunnan, and in Eastern Yunnan it occurs alongside *webbiana elizabethae* with no intergrading examples; therefore until we know more about the breeding haunts of all the *webbiana* and *alphonsiana* races I prefer to keep them separate. In regard to (2), I have large series of *brunnea* from Tengyneh (Momiën), but very few from Lichiang; of *ricketti* I have examples from Yangtze Valley and Lichiang, and it appears from these examples that as a rule *ricketti* is the higher mountain race (from 9,500 ft. upwards), whereas *brunnea* occurs at from 5,000-6,500 ft. This would go a long way to proving Dr. Stresemann's contention, but as the throat and cheeks of *brunnea* are uniform dark rufous, not pinkish and striped, I think we must await breeding series before uniting *brunnea* to the *webbiana* "Formenkreis."

No. 565 : Dr. Stresemann is of opinion that *Aethopyga dabryi* is a subspecies of *gouldiae* ; I have not at the moment access to sufficient material to decide this question.

No. 639 : Dr. Stresemann considers that *tenuirostris* does not belong to the "Formenkreis" of *Oriolus chinensis*. In regard to this and No. 638 I have followed Colonel Meinertzhagen's list of the *Oriolidae* as the latest revision, and I still believe he is right.

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